

the chronicle

Youngsters enjoy a festive success with card designs

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Call to sign up for Beacon Centre's mountain adventure

– see page 5



Licensed for spirits - spooky guide to pubs

– see page 6



Booze-drug killer alert for revellers

REVELLERS in Dudley were given a stark health warning on the risks of mixing alcohol and drugs.

Members of awareness group, safe & sound, spoke with drinkers and party-goers in Sedgley and Stourbridge.

The team hit the streets of the two towns with a hard-hitting message about the potentially lethal substance cocaethylene, created by the body when alcohol and cocaine are mixed.

In Stourbridge participating bars displayed information and party goers who turn on their bluetooth systems received a message directly telling them where they can get more information.

The campaign, run by Dudley's community safety partnership, is called drop dead gorgeous and features a graphic image of a reveller who has suffered from the consequences.

Fumes leave night workers with sore eyes

EIGHT staff at a Black Country hospital were treated for sore eyes after a chemical scare.

A one-litre tub of clear liquid was found with no lid in a laundry and storage room at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital last Tuesday night.

The fumes it was giving off had been affecting the eyes of staff using the ground floor room. It is thought the liquid could have been a mix of cleaning products.

Fire crews were called to the scene at about 10pm.

Eight workers were treated for eye irritation but none was thought to have suffered serious injuries. The container of liquid was unlabelled, said crew manager Andrew Papworth, of Brierley Hill Fire Station.

No patients were affected by the fumes.

Making a date with Age UK

A 2011 calendar featuring scenic photographs taken around Dudley are available from Age UK. The calendar has been compiled by the Leap Over 60 project.

The calendars cost £4 and are available from Age UK Dudley at The Junction in Cradley Road, Netherton. Call 01384 343535 or visit www.ageukdudley.org.uk

Food for thought at zoo

ANIMALS at Dudley Zoo are providing food for thought as stars of a new calendar to help good causes.

Some of the exotic residents there have been pictured tucking into their favourite meals with a Best of British theme.

Each month features a picture highlighting an aspect of the zoo's policy of buying British – and if possible Midland-grown – food for its animals.

Moat

Zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman said: "It's not a new story, we've been doing it since 1937 when the zoo opened, but it has one or two surprises.

"Few people know that bamboo for our red pandas is grown in the moat of an ancient Shropshire manor house.

"We are really pleased with the calendar, it looks fantastic."

Proceeds from the £6.99 calendar will go towards supporting leopards in the wild in Madagascar and Help for Heroes.



Keepers Nicola Wright, left, and Sophie Dugmore with Dudley Zoo's 2011 Best of British calendar which highlights its exotic species and their favourite foods

Hospital 'red alert' status is removed

A HOSPITAL in the Black Country has been taken off "red alert" after slashing accident and emergency waiting times.

Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley had been categorized as a high risk after repeatedly missing targets for patient waiting times. But just 12 months on, NHS regulator Monitor has removed the "red" rating and downgraded it by two levels to "amber-green".

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, was placed on red alert after falling short of the target which stated that 98 per cent of A&E patients should be seen within four hours, with a score of 97.96 per cent.

Monitor spokesman Michael Moruzzi said: "Since then, the trust has demonstrated considerable progress towards addressing our concerns and has robust plans in place to continue to do so."

"Having considered this, Monitor's board decided to remove Dudley Group of Hos-

pitals from significant breach, and assign a lower risk rating for governance."

Monitor classifies each NHS trust as one of four risk ratings – green, amber-green, red-amber, and red.

Nearly £1 million was invested in the A&E department by the trust after being placed in the worst category.

Extra senior medical staff posts were created and 60 new members of staff were recruited to help ease waiting times. A consultancy firm was also drafted in at a cost of £160,000.

Determination

Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "The trust has worked hard over the last 12 months to improve."

"We are proud that we have gone from a position where we were narrowly missing the target to one where we are now one of the best performing trusts in the region."

"I would like to thank the staff across the trust for all their hard work and determination to help improve our performance."

DOUBLE DELIGHT AT LOTTERY CASH

By TIM SPIERS

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

out money to community groups and charities. Grants had to be for a specific project or activity and the Dudley winners are two of 84 across the West Midlands to receive the good news.

Vanessa Kokonganto recently established Dudley African Community Trust and said the money would go towards cookery classes for families from minority backgrounds.

Brilliant

Some funds will also go towards organisational development training for the group's management committee.

"We're very, very pleased," she said.

"We have 28 members and this is just brilliant news."

John Taylor, head of Big Lottery Fund in the West Midlands, said the Trust was a deserving cause.

"Dudley African Community Trust's family cooking project will bring together budding cooks of all ages and backgrounds to prepare healthy dishes in a fun, friendly atmosphere."

"Many people in Dudley stand to benefit by learning new skills and mixing with other members of the local community."

"It is a very worthy project and I'm delighted that the Big Lottery Fund is able to support it in this way."

Meanwhile, Lapal Primary School in Halesowen will use their £6,650 windfall to fund a

pond and garden area. They applied for the money through the extended schools project and Emma Tolley, the school's senior leader with responsibility for community, will oversee how it is used.

Jeannette Mackinney, consultant headteacher at Lapal, said: "They money will make a real impact on the children."

"We're absolutely delighted and work will start in the New Year."

Mr Taylor added: "I would encourage people across the West Midlands to seize the moment and apply to the Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All programme for funding that can make their ideas a reality in 2011. A lottery grant could be a great start to the New Year for hundreds more local community groups."

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When canals cut the way for industry



A steam train gets diverted along the Bumble Hole Line in the early 1960s



The Baptist End Halt on the Bumble Hole Line, pictured in August 1962

In many ways the face of Netherton today has been shaped by the various kinds of transport used in the past.

The canals made a big difference to the area by paving the way for industrial growth.

According to the book Netherton by historian Ned Williams many of the major works were built with a view to being served by the canal.

The opening of an 11-mile stretch of waterway spurred a colliery revival.

The launch of the Dudley No 2.

canal in May 1798 revived works around Netherton.

Other methods of transport have also had an impact on Netherton.

The construction of the turnpike road leading from Dudley to Halesowen and on to Bromsgrove is what put Netherton on the map in the first place while residential development in Netherton at the end of the 19th century was helped by the electric tramway.

Meanwhile 20th century housing schemes prompted the Midland Red company to provide more serv-

ices to Netherton. These days the road network is the quickest way to get around Netherton but images from Mr Williams' book show how busy the canals were in years gone by.

An image from the book dating back to April 1984 shows a large group of people celebrating after restoration work was completed near the Netherton Tunnel to solve subsidence issues which first flared in 1902.

Trevor Luckcuck, from the British Waterways Board, reopened the tunnel in a boat-based ceremony in 1984.

The tunnel opened in August 1858 and provided direct access from the Dudley No.2 canal to the rest of the Birmingham Canal Navigation's System at Tividale.

One of Netherton's forgotten means of transport is the old railway line. In the early 1960s, mainline trains were often diverted along the tracks via the Bumble Hole line, which ran between Dudley and Old Hill.

Trains would stop at Baptist End Halt and Darby End Halt, as well as a proper station at Windmill End when the line opened in 1878.

● Pictures and information supplied by Netherton by Ned Williams



British Waterways' Trevor Luckcuck reopens Netherton Tunnel in 1984



Part of Dudley NO.2 Canal to Worcester and Birmingham Canal in 1905

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Terri-Louise's seashells vase



This is a recent cameo vase creation



Terri-Louise Colledge, one of the last remaining traditional cameo artists

When every day is just like Christmas



NERVOUSLY waiting for her colourful pieces to come out of the fiery furnace, Terri-Louise Colledge admits that every day for her feels like Christmas.

The 50-year-old, who lives in Coseley, is one of the last remaining traditional cameo artists in the country.

Her work is so close to that of the 19th century glassworkers, such as Thomas Webb, that she has been commissioned by a museum to create a piece to add to their collection.

Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford has a cameo room, which originally inspired Terri-Louise to go into that type of glass design.

Terri-Louise, who lives in Upper Ettingshall Road, Hurst Hill, is now in talks with the museum to discuss the type of piece that would fit in to their collection.

"It can take a couple of months to make a cameo piece as they are so intricate," says Terri-Louise.

Black Country grandmother Terri-Louise Colledge has been asked to create a piece of glasswork for a popular museum. The established cameo artist spoke to CATHY SPENCER

"To make a cameo I get the piece of glass when it is all white and then draw a design on sticky-backed plastic," she added.

"I put the plastic onto the vase and sandblast it down to the colour underneath using a dentist's drill.

Beautiful

"Cameos show the different layers of coloured glass and they do look beautiful."

Terri-Louise, who is married to

husband Michael, has two children, Delyse, aged 25, and Jordan, 21, as well as a grandson, Tyler, aged 6.

"I loved art at school and the teachers never picked me out as being anything special.

"But I knew I wanted to be a painter," said the former High Arcal School pupil.

"I never thought I was anything exceptional but now when people see my work they are amazed."

Terri-Louise is now based at Wordsley-based Okra Glass, where she works as a freelance decorating the items it produces.

Established in 1979, the firm is one of the most successful glass studios in Britain and specialises in creating gifts and limited edition pieces including perfume bottles, vases and paperweights.

She said: "People ask if the beautiful glass items become boring to us after so long. But I have to admit that waiting for the furnace to open in the morning, to see how each piece has turned out, makes you feel like a child on Christmas Day."



Terri-Louise Colledge works on a new mermaid piece

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A woman with dark, curly hair is smiling in the foreground. Behind her is a light-colored building with a large blue sign that reads 'Beacon'. Below the main sign, there is smaller text that is partially visible and reads 'for the'. To the left, a brick building with a dormer window is visible.

FUNDRAISERS in the Black Country are being urged to put on their walking boots and join a charity trek through the Polish mountains.

The challenge has been organised by the Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgely to boost funds.

Walkers will spend five days trekking through the hills near Pieniny National Park from September 22 to 27.

Along the way they will be stopping in a mixture of guesthouses, hotels and mountain huts. To take part fundraisers need to raise a minimum of £1600, which will be due in July. Fundraising officer Karen Gullick said: "We are looking for adventurous people to join us on our Mountain Trek in Poland."

The centre has been running for 140 years, helping partially or fully blind people live an independent life.

For further information contact community fundraising officer Karen Gullick on 01902 880111 or log on to the web address which can be found at www.beacon4blind.co.uk

It is hoped it will be open by next spring.

Plans to develop worship centre

He said they have declared their intention to continue using it as a music venue.

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Beacon Hotel – watch out for the former landlady



The Whittington – hidden monks



The Horse and Jockey – scene of a suicide



The Talbot – a roaming mistress

Licensed for spirits

A couple of authors have been looking at the grisly past of the Black Country's most haunted pubs – and there are some spooky stories to be told.

The Whittington Inn, on the A449 near Kinver, has several high profile spectres associated with it, according to the book *Beer and Spirits*.

Staff and customers have seen a monk hiding there – perhaps dating back to the Reformation when Catholics hid in fear of their lives at pub. It is also reported that Lady Jane Grey stayed at there. The ghost of Lady Jane, who was briefly Queen of England in the 16th century, has been spotted many times over the years. Even on the road outside the car park there have been numerous sightings of notorious local highwayman Captain Kitson – so be careful on your way home!

Light-hearted

The Crooked House, Himley, is a famous old pub with tales to tell. Formerly an 18th century farmhouse, it has been visited by the apparition of a young parlour maid. A psychic identified the woman as Polly and she can sometimes be seen standing near the old fireplace.

Many legends in the book by David Taylor and Andrew Homer are of a light-hearted nature. There is the story of Anne Horton, a lady of the night who is said to follow young men home from The Giffard Arms, in Wolverhampton city centre.

But other tales take a more poignant turn. The Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge, dates back to 1685 and this rich history includes an 18th century landlord's mistress who has been spotted roaming the building in search of her dead child.

Pubs in the Black Country are said to have spooky things going on, **ADAM BATE** dips into a new book that reveals some of the most haunted



The Old Still Inn, King Street, Wolverhampton, also has a disturbing history. Built in the early 1750s, the presence of a former licensee who hung himself in the 1900s is still felt in the pub. A second hanging of a young child is said to have occurred years later – and the sobbing can often be heard from the upper floors of the building.

Highgate Brewery Stores, Walsall, is a Victorian pub on a site going back to medieval times and when workmen began renovating the pub in 1998 they were shocked by some of the strange events.

Tools regularly went missing and it was assumed to be a practical joke until one workman was confronted by a disembodied head when alone in what is now the Cellar Bar.

When a pub has been around as long as The Manor House, West Bromwich, it is bound to have a history. This historical gem boasts a 14th century moat and a chapel that may date back to the late 15th century.

But The Manor House is also thought to be home to a variety of apparitions. There is the nervous man who haunts the great hall and even the large black cat that

stalks the upper solar bar. Even reconstructed pubs cannot escape ghostly activity. The Bottle and Glass was moved to the Black Country Living Museum in 1979 from its previous location in Brierley Hill Road, Brockmoor, near the Stourbridge Canal at the top of the 16 locks.

It was there that Minnie Holden, who lived at the pub for periods between 1914 and 1928, first experienced unusual activity. But staff at the museum still believe the Bottle and Glass to be haunted and have reported strange, inexplicable noises coming from the pub.

The Horse and Jockey, Wednesbury, is a Victorian pub that was, according to legend, the scene of a tragic suicide.

A man walked into the pub, ordered a double brandy, drank it and promptly shot himself. His ghost – known to staff as Cyril – is thought to be still haunting the premises.

Beady eyes

At the Beacon Hotel, Sedgley, a spooky painting of former landlady Sarah Hughes has been unnerving managers of the Victorian pub for years. The beady eyes of her portrait in the sitting room seem to follow visitors as she keeps a watchful eye over her pub.

Mr Taylor founded Parasearch, a West Midlands group that investigates paranormal phenomena in 1896. Mr Homer is a past vice chairman of the organisation.

They said: "While the stories and accounts in this book are not meant to offer any proof or conclusive evidence of ghosts, they do offer a fresh look at new and more traditional accounts of haunted pubs in the Black Country and the surrounding area."

The book, featuring more than 60 local pubs across nearly 100 pages, is available through Amberley Publishing priced at £12.99.



The Giffard Arms – haunted by a lady of the night



The Crooked House – visited by Polly

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A snapshot of the Garrison Military Police in Abbassia, in 1937, with Mr Harris second from the left on the back row



Mr Harris's birth certificate, shows he was born on January 9, 1917, in Bower Lane, Quarry Bank



Roland Harris on horseback



The suitcase found in the loft at Alexandra House – at the top are two wallets with Egyptian print and, right, the inside of one of the wallet with a photograph of Rowland Harris during his army days



Some of the photographs, including family shots which do not include Rowland Harris

Discovered, a suitcase packed full of memories

A suitcase containing poignant letters from a Black Country soldier who died aged 26 in the Second World War has been discovered in a Dudley care home.

The stash of documents, which also included photos, was found in the loft of Alexandra House, Pensnett, when a maintenance worker was searching for Christmas decorations.

They reveal details of the army career of Rowland Harris, from Dudley, dating back to when he signed up in 1934 to his death in 1942.

In a series of letters sent by the former Quarry Bank Council School pupil to his mother while he was on service, he assured her that he would soon return, but it appears he never did.

While the documentation shows the gunner in the Royal Regiment of Artillery began serving in Egypt in 1936, it also reveals a statement of his death from the army which says he was killed by "enemy air fire" in the Middle East Battle on March 31,

1942. He was buried at a military cemetery in Halfaya Sollum, Egypt, and a photo of the grave was sent to his family.

It is thought that the mystery case belonged to his mother Elizabeth, who died in 1953, before being passed on to his sister Dora. It is not known if she is still alive, but staff at the care home believe she once stayed there.

In a note Mr Harris sent on January 1, 1941 to his mother's home at Bower Lane, Quarry Bank, he says: "Mother, I am perfectly alright now, but have been in hospital for a few weeks with nose trouble, but everything is running smoothly once more."

Fears

"The war won't last forever so don't be surprised if one day you see me again come up the garden path and I'll be much the same."

Another message passed on Mr Harris' congratulations to his brother John after his first son was born, while expressing fears over his hair loss due to stress.

Written on August 13, 1938, it

reads: "John says that the baby features me but I doubt it because my hair is steadily falling out and I have tried all sorts of hair restorers but without any success."

"Never mind, I suppose I shall retain it when I return to England."

"I hope to be in England in 15 months time. I know it is rather a long wait for us all but I still have a service here to accomplish."

Another note speaks of the increase in the cost of living in Britain due to the war and his concerns that his mother would not cope on her own.

Mr Harris writes: "I got your correspondence yesterday and I'm pleased to hear you got the money alright."

"Mother, please don't send me anything for I can acquire everything here much cheaper than you earn at home."

"I also know that nowadays a penny costs a shilling so I implore you not to send me anything. If you should ever need anything let me know and everything I have is yours."

The case also holds a number of photos of Mr Harris on service including a group photo of the Garrison Mil-

itary Police in Abbassia in 1937. Staff at the care home are now hoping to trace his family and are appealing for them or anyone with information to get in touch.

Naomi Jones, care manager at the home, said: "These need to be in the care of someone related to him."

"Some of these letters are so sad and they would help the family learn about this man's life."

If you are related to Mr Harris or have any information call Alexandra House on 01384 77441.

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The Peace Memorial, focal point for ceremonies at Stevens Park today



A house which once stood in or near Stevens Park in the 1920s

Black Country pride in town showpiece park

CARNIVALS, sports contests and remembrance services are among the array of events which have been hosted by Stevens Park, in Quarry Bank through the decades.

The park in Thorns Road has attracted a range of community events to put the town on the map. Quarry Bank acquired its public park through the generosity of renowned Stourbridge philanthropist Ernest Stevens after World War One. Mr Stevens had a long associa-

tion with the town, having grown up in the area. He married his wife Mary, a member of the Wesleyan Methodist congregation, in Mount Pleasant, and set up home with her in Thorns Road for ten years.

He gave the land to Quarry Bank Urban District Council for a park to be landscaped. Its opening in July 1921 was on a grand scale with hundreds joining a procession from Lower High Street.

Around 7,000 people were said to have

arrived at the park for the ceremony hosted by Mr and Mrs Stevens. Huge metal gates were constructed at the entrance off Thorns Road thanks to manufacturers Hill & Smith Ltd, of Harts Hill, which also produced the main gates for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park.

Quarry Bank's council met in at a house in Park Road bordering the park until the authority was absorbed into Brierley Hill in 1934.

One of the main features of the park is the Quarry Bank Peace Memorial dedicated to soldiers from the town.

It was unveiled in October 1931 by the Dean of Worcester, Dr W. Moore, with Mr Stevens helping to fund the memorial.

The memorial is still the focal point for Remembrance Day ceremonies each November.

Competitions

Another landmark in the Quarry Bank calendar was the town's carnival, with the park playing its part in the annual festivities. Elements of the carnival included fancy dress competitions, roller cycle racing and a carnival queen contest.

Up to 10,000 people attended the park for the 1958 carnival to see Margaret Whyatt crowned as that year's Quarry Bank carnival queen.

The last traditional carnival was held in 2000. In recent years, an annual family fun day has been held in its place.



Roller cycle racing taking place in Stevens Park during the 1957 carnival



Quarry Bank carnival queen Margaret Whyatt and her attendants Norma Hodgetts and Joan Cooper, at the town's annual festivities in summer 1958



The grand gateway at the entrance to Stevens Park in Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, Dudley

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Film puts focus on dyslexia sufferers

KRISSY, the star of a new Black Country made film, has these words to say to schools: "I'm not stupid. The teachers just don't understand me."

Young Wordsley film maker Dan Evans, managing director of Expressive Arts Productions, has produced the DVD - called Musik - with the help of family and friends, a Star Wars actor, the famous Pinewood Studios, local schools and an Aston Martin supercar.

And Dan achieved all of that with a budget of just £5,000. Jeremy Bulloch, who played Boba Fett in Star Wars films and Edwin in the Cliff Richard movie Summer Holiday, appears in the film.

He plays Krissy's maths teacher in Musik, which aims to inspire people with dyslexia. It is about a teenage girl who is labelled 'stupid' and faces torment from bullies at school.

Producing

A fifth of the profits from sales will go to the British Dyslexia Association, which is promoting the film through its newsletters and magazines.

Dan, aged 22, of Swanfield Road, Wordsley, who specialises in producing corporate, commercial and training DVDs, music videos and films, shot 'Musik' at Pinewood Studios, The Wordsley School, The Brier special school in Kingswinford and a friend's mock medieval mansion in Lawnswood, Wordsley.

Krissy, played by 19-year-old Natasha Bennett - a Gornal singer whose stage name is Taisa - turns her life around by learning to play the saxophone, determined to show the world that being dyslexic does not stop her from being successful. Along the way viewers learn a lot



Film maker Dan Evans and, inset, Natasha Bennett



more about how dyslexia is diagnosed - and that people with the condition are often intelligent, creative and successful.

The script was written by Dan's girlfriend, musician Joanne Naylor, aged 23, of Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, who plays the saxophone.

"Joanne really researched the subject well, reading books about it and talking to people she knows with dyslexia," said Dan, who gained a BTEC National Diploma in media - moving image at Halesowen College.

"We wanted to raise awareness that people with dyslexia are not stupid but have a different way of thinking and a different perspective on life."

"In our film Krissy, who is aged 15, comes out of her shell when she learns to play the saxophone and she enters a talent show at school."

The DVD costs £4.50, a download is 95p and downloadable streams are available for 45p (SD) or 60p (HD).

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Sarah was a pupil at Halesowen Road School, the Iron School, and is seen here at the age of 21



The family with Sarah when she was 104 - from left, Joyce, Michael, Roy and Bryan Edge



A smile for the camera - Sarah enjoying family time at a party held at her son Roy's house

A century of history for Sarah

Sarah Edge saw two world wars, travelled across the globe at the age of 70 and lived to the age of 105. Her grand-daughter Abigail Edge looks back on Sarah's life.

SARAH EDGE, the oldest woman in the Dudley borough, if not the Midlands, has died at the age of 105.

Sarah (née White) was born at Mousesweet Cottage, Netherton, on March 14, 1905.

Known as Sally to her friends, she attended Halesowen Road School in Netherton, commonly known as the Iron School due to the fact it was constructed entirely of corrugated iron.

Each morning before school Sarah delivered milk from her grandfather's dairy farm using a small horse-cart.

One of seven children born to Ellen and Edward, a builder, Sarah shared a bed with two of her sisters in the cramped two-bedroom cottage while their two brothers slept in the same room behind a partition. The family had few luxuries but Sarah enjoyed singing in the choir at Spring Meadow

Baptist Chapel, Old Hill. At more than 90 years old she could remember all the words to her favourite hymn, The Old Rugged Cross.

She also vividly remembered the fright of seeing an enormous German Zeppelin airship whirling in the skies above her home following the advent of the First World War.

After leaving school at 14, Sarah went to work at D Leonard & Co, one of the main firms in Birmingham's then-booming pen industry.

Nuggets

She worked there for seven years, and one of her duties was collecting gold nuggets from the Jewellery Quarter to be moulded into fountain pen nibs.

In her early 20s, Sarah met Charles, a local toolmaker, through a mutual friend. They married in June 1930 at St Andrews Church, Nether-

ton, with Sarah walking all the way to church in her wedding dress.

Less than a year later their first child arrived, a daughter named Joyce, soon followed by three sons: Bryan, Michael and Roy.

Michael was born on a hot night in July 1943, when Britain was under wartime blackout. Charles and Sarah - who was then heavily in labour - received a warning from the air-raid warden for allowing a beam of light to escape from a window they had opened a crack to let some air into the house.

The young family lived at first with Charles' parents in Claremont Street, Cradley Heath, later moving to Linton Road, Old Hill. Sarah was more at home in the garden than the kitchen, and had a particular talent for propagating plants and bushes.

She also enjoyed weekend jaunts to seaside towns such as Bournemouth



Sarah Edge on her 100th birthday with the telegram from the Queen

and Weston-super-Mare. She was an active member of the Haden Hill Darby and Joan Club, with which, on one occasion, visited the Isle of Skye.

At the age of 70 she travelled abroad for the first time, visiting her youngest son Roy who lived in Australia and spending six months in Perth. Roy, 65, spent six years in Perth as an operating theatre technician and Sarah made the journey to see him in 1972.

"She was a tough woman and whenever she saw a snake, she'd shrug it off, maybe even poke it with a stick," said Roy, who now lives in Brockley's Walk, Kinver. "I think she really enjoyed her time over there and absolutely loved the sunshine."

Charles passed away in 1976, but Sarah remained at Linton Road until shortly after her 100th birthday, when she received the first of two telegrams from the Queen.

There was more than 100 years between Sarah and her youngest grandchild, Alicia, and she was also great-grandmother of two.

Sarah passed away peacefully on December 7 with family at her side, at Woodlands Gate Rest Home, Pedmore, where she had been a resident for the last five years.

Her son Michael, 67, said his mother would be remembered fondly. "She was always there for us and lived for her family. She was a wonderful mother."

Homes plan approved for sports pitch

SEVENTY HOMES are due to be built on a sports pitch in Halesowen despite the plans being labelled "deplorable".

The proposals for flats and houses on the site of Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club were given the go-ahead on December 13.

Residents are currently fighting plans for the club's new site in Stewarts Road, with a public inquiry due to be held by the planning inspectorate in January.

And, despite being given approval, the housing scheme on the existing cricket pitch between Lodgefield Road and Coombs Road will not go ahead until the future of the club's new site had been secured.

Councillor Geoffrey Southall said: "The whole concept is deplorable. I accept the principle of building new homes but I feel this is a desecration of a very nice area."

But fellow committee members disagreed and voted to approve the plans for 17 two-bedroom flats along with nine two-bedroom, 18 three-bedroom and 26 four-bedroom houses.

Original proposals for 80 homes had been given outline approval in September, 2009.

These have been reduced to 70 to accommodate a three-storey L-shaped "barrier block" containing flats, to reduce the effects of noise disturbance from a nearby industrial site.

Only one letter of objection to the proposals was received, but hundreds of residents have united to oppose the new sports club plans for the Coombs Wood Green Wedge.

Campaigners wrote to the Government demanding an inquiry after planning permission was granted in April.

House will be turned into a taxi office

A VICTORIAN house in Dudley will be turned into a taxi office after plans were given the go-ahead.

The property in Wolverhampton Street, next to the Dudley College campus in the town, will become the base for a taxi firm.

The business will be limited to operating just three taxis to stop cars spilling over into a nearby Dudley Council car park.

Planning permission was granted by the authority's development control committee earlier this month.

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Teaching 'icon' retires after 35 years at school

DEPUTY headteacher John Simms has said farewell to the Kingswinford school where he has become an "icon" over the past 35 years.

Mr Simms, aged 58, joined The Kingswinford School as head of PE and later set up the IT department and rose through the ranks to become deputy head 12 months ago.

He is retiring to spend more time with his family and on his hobbies – including golf and ballroom dancing.

During his time at the school he has seen well over 5,000 pupils through their secondary education. Colleague Shaun Callaghan, science curriculum leader, said: "He is Mr Kingswinford – he's like a stick of rock with 'Kingswinford' running right through him."

"He's an icon here and will be sadly missed."

Special

Colleagues organised a splendid send-off for him at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club, even fixing it for 75-year-old Keith Dent, his old French teacher at Wednesbury Boys High School who inspired him to join the profession, to attend.

Mr Simms's first job, 36 years ago, was as probationary teacher at Alexander High School, Tipton, and he went straight on a year later to The Kingswinford School, in Water Street, where he spent the rest of his career.

"There's something about this school – a family atmosphere, it's a very special place," he said.

"When I started here there were about 450 pupils but now there are 920 – and staffing has trebled to around 120 teachers and support staff."

"This places pulses through my veins and it was an extremely difficult decision to take to retire and leave the kids, the school and



John Simms with pupils, clockwise from bottom left, Ben Ruddy, Tom Oakley, Courtney Smith, Jacob Wedderburn, Aaron James and Reece Bills and inset, John teaching PE in 1980

my colleagues. But I now have three grandsons and I would like to spend more time with my family and on my hobbies."

Mr Simms lives with his wife, Eryl, in Mannerley Lane, Telford.

He and his wife took up ballroom dancing two years ago following in the footsteps of his late

parents, John and Gwen Simms, of Wednesbury, who were professional ballroom teachers.

Principal deputy head, Bronwyn Hedley, said: "All our students know him very well and he always put the children and staff first. He will leave a hole here."



GAMES

Getting creative with your NDS

Art Academy (Nintendo)

GET creative with your DS or DSi with this learning to draw and paint package. Your artist guide Vince will help you pick up the basics and, if not exactly a masterpiece, you should soon have some pretty decent pictures to show off to your friends.

You can also use the DSi/DSi XL camera to turn your photos into works of art.

The stylus can act as various sorts of brush or type of pencil from 2H to 2B and reacts in a very realistic way on your touchscreen canvas.

You have a palette to call upon with colour wheel, paint tubes and water with which to mix the paints.

Vince is ready to give budding artists some tips or you can always go into free paint mode if you just want to get on with creating a freehand picture. Mistakes can easily be put right. And when you're happy with the results, you can store more than 80 pictures in your own gallery.

The Penguins of Madagascar (3, THQ)

Join the mischievous penguins from the hit Madagascar animated movies, Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private on stealthy missions as they take on three tasks: Throwing King Julien a birthday party, finding the missing Mort and ridding the zoo of snow. This involves plenty of wisecracks, lots of fun mini-games and some pretty nifty acrobatic moves by these tough guy penguins. Good fun.

Super Scribblenauts (12, WB)

Already one of the most imaginative games on DS, Scribblenauts has been massively improved in its Super sequel. The hero Maxwell is a lot easier to manoeuvre now he's controllable with the game pad, though if you prefer you can still use the stylus to guide him.

But in the game tagged "Think It, Write It, Solve It" it's the amazing range of creatures and things you can create in the game simply by writing the word for it that impresses. In this new version many thousands of words are recognised – excluding rude words and trade-

names – and for the first time you can use adjectives too, so whereas once you wrote 'mouse' and the familiar little beast was conjured up, now you can write 'flying mouse' to create your own fabulous mutant.

Your imagination can really take flight as you create ways to help Maxwell complete his challenge. He's got more than 100 puzzles to solve, in order to win his 'Starite' rewards. This will keep kids occupied for hours.

Pictionary (3, THQ)

The popular board game is brought to the DS to test your descriptive powers and drawing ability as you try to guess words from sketches made by other members of your team or by your Nintendo DS. There are easy, medium and hard settings and solo, pass and play and co-op quiz versions of the game. Your DS-owning friends can also join in with a wireless game.

101 In 1 Sports Megamix (3, Nordcurrent)

101 games in one may sound too good to be true and in a way it is because these are not high quality sims from the Lithuanian games house Nordcurrent. You start off with 10 sports and unlock the others as you earn points playing the existing games.

Little skill is involved and some of the games are very, very repetitive. There are multi-player and wireless options if you want to share the tedium.

Princess Isabella Witch's Curse (7, GSP)

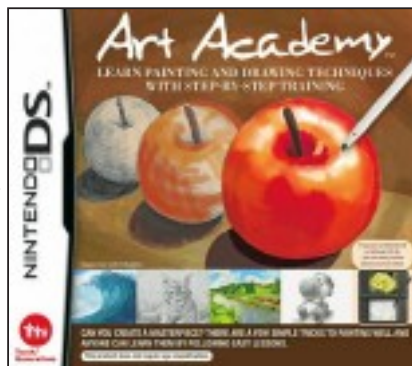
More than 130 scenes to explore and 40 puzzles to solve as Princess Isabella and her fairy guide try to lift the curse placed on the royal family, trapping them behind mirrored walls. There's also some monsters to battle and mini-games to play before the final showdown with the witch. The graphics are a little disappointing given that this is a port from a PC title but this remains a solid adventure game for kids.

thechronicle

Nintendo DS/DSi round-up
by Leon Burakowski



Art Academy can make you a DS artist



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Leslie Nielsen



Alex Higgins



Cyril Smith

Loveable fool Norman lost



Tony Curtis



Sir Norman Wisdom

THIS year we said goodbye to one of the great talents from the heyday of the British film industry, Sir Norman Wisdom. The acting dynasty of the Redgraves was hit again with the death of Lynn whose first major film role was as Georgy Girl.

Hollywood legends Jean Simmons, Dennis Hopper and Tony Curtis also died.

Simmons will perhaps be best remembered for her role alongside Kirk Douglas in Spartacus and Hopper's career spanned almost 50 years. He became regarded as one of

the truly great talents of cinema while Curtis had starred in some of the most memorable films of all time, not least Some Like It Hot.

Boxing fans were saddened by the demise of Harry Carpenter who covered some of the biggest fights in the sport and who will always be associated with Frank Bruno and his catchphrase "Know wharramean 'arry".

Also gone from the sporting arena was the mercurial Alex "Hurricane" Higgins whose rapid style of play revolutionised the game.

It was a bad year for the literary world too with the deaths of Dick Francis and JD Salinger who will forever be associated with the death of John Lennon through his book Catcher in the Rye.

From the world of politics the year said goodbye to former Labour leader Michael Foot and larger than life Liberal MP Cyril Smith famous.

The arena of music had its share of losses too with jazz singer Lena Horne, soul singer Teddy Pendergrass and musician Sir John Dankworth.

Danny Farragher



Claire Rayner



Simon MacCorkindale

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Pictures to capture the big freeze

THE weather outside is frightful – but the pictures are so delightful.

Yes, it's been cold – really, bone jarringly, worst in 100 years cold – but the unusual light qualities of sun reflecting off the powdery surface has meant a field day for photographers.

Camera man Graham Gough has been out and about, capturing images as

diverse as a family taking the chance of a little sledding to the calm, still grandeur of hoar frost decorating trees on the sweeping drive at Himley Hall.

He also caught a pastoral sunset at Stourton and the effects the weather had on what should have been the Christmas rush at the High Street in Kinver.

No matter what the weather, it usually means good news for someone.



Photographer Graham Gough



Hoar frost at Himley Hall. Pictures: Graham Gough



Cold weather reduced the number of shoppers in Kinver High Street



Andrew Mander with sons Daniel and James at Kinver



Sunset at Stourton produced a compelling picture

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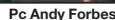


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New man on the town beat

He is currently working on a crime prevention initiative targeting purse thieves in Kidderminster.

Why the early birds got out to feed the Robins

Cake

A large group photograph of the 1906-1907 football team. The team consists of approximately 40 individuals, including players and coaches, posed in four rows outdoors. The front row is seated on the ground, while the subsequent rows are standing. The players are wearing dark jerseys with light-colored collars and light-colored trousers. The coaches are dressed in suits and hats. The background shows a grassy field and a building.

Left, the Robins breakfast workers of 1895 who got up before dawn to ensure that the children had something to eat on Christmas Day.

Below, some of the Robins who devoured beef and ham sandwiches, bread and butter, tea – and two types of cake

Hunt as bikes are stolen

Anyone with information should contact him on 0300 333 3000 or ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Star pupils
top of tree

Runners-up, Pedmore CofE Primary School and Burlish Park Primary School, both received £50 vouchers from the garden centre.

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A newspaper report from winter 1895

Mr Hudson added: "We're delighted to have been passed these records; they give such an insight into the generosity of our ancestors from Kidderminster, but also an understanding of the level of poverty in Kidderminster and indeed the whole of the county."

The Robin Breakfast ended in 1914 with many volunteers away at the war, although the Guild continued with charitable work for many years. For more information about the Record Office call 01905 766351 or visit the council website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/records



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thechronicle

Death of charity pioneer

A REVERED charity pioneer whose determined nature influenced people and organisations throughout Stourbridge has died.

Jock Poyner MBE, former mayor of Stourbridge, secretary of Stourbridge FC, headmaster of Tenterfields Primary School and joint-founder of Mary Stevens Hospice was 89 when he passed away at Russells Hall Hospital.

Tributes have been made to the "very approachable, pleasant and positive thinking"

Mr Poyner, who was born in Edinburgh in 1921. Son David led the adulation to his father, whose funeral took place last Tuesday at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford.

"Someone once called him Mr Stourbridge for all he'd done for the town and I think that about sums him up."

He leaves behind a widow, Dr Brenda Clarke, two sons, 14 grandchildren and six grandchildren.

Delight as three-year mosque bid approved

Special delivery – by reindeer

PUPILS got an early Christmas present delivered on a sleigh pulled by two reindeer.

At the Brier School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, Santa's Elf, played by a staff member, gave out presents to pupils from a sleigh drawn by the reindeer.

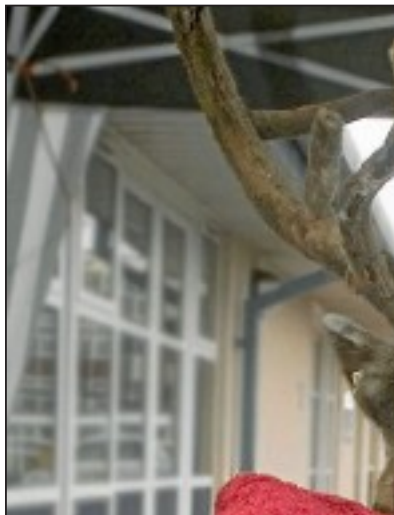
Each pupil received a present from the school paid for by fundraising events during the year.

Pupils were able to meet the reindeer before getting their presents. There were soft toys for younger pupils and model cars and games for older ones.

Parents also joined with pupils for the annual Christmas fair. Pupils met Father Christmas in his grotto and received a selection box.

Nursery nurse Carol Millward said: "It was a very special day and having the reindeer bring in the presents added to the magic."

"It was great to see all the parents come in for the Christmas fair."



Enjoying receiving presents and a visit by Tide the reindeer to The Brier School, Kingswinford, are pupils Laura Beasley, aged 10, and Justin Adams, 11

WORSHIPPERS in Dudley are "delighted" after permission to build a £1.2million mosque was given the go-ahead.

The proposals for the Rizvia Mosque in Trinity Street were granted by Dudley Council development control committee chiefs at a meeting on December 13.

The decision to build the mosque and community centre comes three years after a parking dispute forced leaders to withdraw their plans in 2007.

Under the new proposals the existing mosque will be demolished and in its place will be a contemporary two-storey building with glass dome and minaret.

Some 150 people, who have been using the former scout hut for daily worship, since 1998, will benefit from the renovation.

Rizvia general secretary, Mohammed Amin, said: "This has been going on for such a long time and even though all of the issues that we encountered we have managed to win our fight and we are now all delighted with the result."

"The new mosque and community centre will be a huge asset to all of the community as well as the Muslim faith. Although the scout hut has served us well it is very small and we are all looking forward to a larger space to pray and hold events."

School extension scheme

PLANS to extend a Halesowen primary school have been lodged with council chiefs in Dudley. The work proposed for Our Lady and St Kenelm's RC Primary School, in Bundle Hill, would see new toilets created along with a new cloakroom area and stairwell. A planning application has been submitted.



Entertainer Christopher Biggins with children and families using the Ronald McDonald House

Panto star brings smiles to hospital

PANTO star Christopher Biggins brought some festive cheer to poorly children with a visit to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The veteran entertainer, currently starring as Widow Twankey in Aladdin at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre, paid a visit to Ronald McDonald House, where families stay with youngsters receiving treatment.

The star met youngsters, many of whom will be spending the festive season there, and helped them decorate their Christmas tree.

Thrilled

The building in St Mary's Row has already helped more than 1,000 families since it opened in November last year.

Biggins said he was "thrilled" to have

spent the day with the children and their families.

"Christmas is a time for families to be together, so accommodation like this is essential as parents can be close-by to their sick child," he said.

"I wish the staff and all the families a wonderful Christmas and all the best in the New Year."

Libby Aston, manager of the house, added: "Our home-away-from-home accommodation opens its doors to families for the entire year."

"We have families who use the house for a few days and some that stay with us for months with several families staying with us over Christmas to be near their sick children. Our priority is to make sure they are comfortable and that they have the best Christmas possible."



With Harriet Waters, aged 10 weeks



The Georgian buildings and Victorian National Savings Bank on Easy Row were cleared to make way for Paradise Circus (below) and the Easy Row subway near Alpha Tower is the only reminder left



A busy streetscene from the 1960s in St Mark's Street, Ladywood. The old street layout has gone now but the more modern factory, seen at the end of the street, still stands

Book remembers lost Birmingham

FEW other English cities have been transformed as much as Birmingham in the past 70 years.

A perplexed time traveller beamed to today from the 1930s would be hard pressed to recognise some parts of the Second City to that workshop of the world which provided the engine for the British Empire.

The work started by the Luftwaffe during the air raids of the war years was completed by eager town planners in the 1960s. A lot of the development was well-meaning, clearing squalid back-to-backs for a brave new future of hi-rise living.

Problem is, the new way of living was not beneficial to the sense of community which thrived in the teeming streets of Victorian Brummagem. Something special was lost alongside many impressive Georgian and Victorian buildings.

Mark Norton's Birmingham Then & Now, part of the Britain In Old Photographs series, rescues some of these lost buildings by showing them before the wrecker's ball cleared them away. The book also shows what replaced them which, with just a couple of exceptions, tended to be something ultra-modern and ultra-ugly.

Mr Norton, whose previous work includes Birmingham Past & Present: In

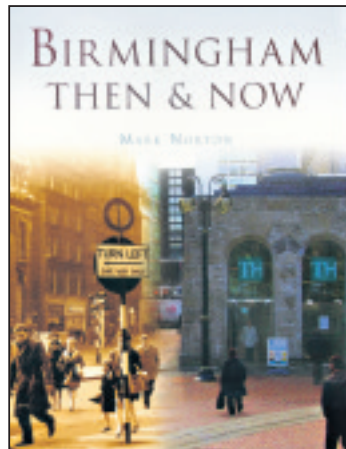
My Father's Footsteps, contrasts the before and after views with many previously unpublished vintage pictures alongside his own shots of 21st Century Birmingham.

He said: "My first book was filled with my father's photographs. Research for that book sparked an interest that has grown and grown."

"As someone who grew up in 1970s Birmingham, it is not surprising that I failed to appreciate the history of the city during my early years. The drab, concrete buildings that filled the city centre did little to create a sense of civic pride."

"It was only the realisation of the importance of photographs of the city taken by my father, before the Inner Ring Road was constructed, that finally made me appreciate that Birmingham was a city with a fascinating history."

Published by The History Press, Birmingham Then & Now is available in paperback for £12.99.



This massive building on Suffolk Street, between Navigation Street and Swallow Street, had opened in 1895 as the Municipal Technical School and housed the Central Technical College, Birmingham Central Grammar School and Matthew Boulton Technical College until the latter college moved into a modern building. It was demolished in the mid-1960s and the Brunel Street car park (below) now occupies the site



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| 07/57 | MATIZ 1.0 SE. Moroccan Blue | £3790 | £2990 | £800 |
| 07/57 | MATIZ 0.8SE. Blue | £3690 | £2990 | £700 |
| 07/07 | MATIZ 1.0SE. Silver | £3490 | £2990 | £500 |
| 04/54 | KALOS 1.4 SX. 3-dr, Black | £3990 | £2490 | £1500 |
| 07/57 | CAPTIVA 2.0 VCDi LS. Silver | £11,990 | £10,490 | £1500 |
| 09/59 | CAPTIVA 2.0 VCDi LS. Black, 4x4 | £14,990 | £13,290 | £1700 |
| 06/06 | LACETTI 1.6 SX ESTATE. Green, Metallic | £5290 | £2990 | £3300 |

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| JAPANESE | | | | |
| 07/07 | MAZDA MX5 2.0 CONVERTIBLE. Black | £9490 | £8290 | £1200 |
| 06/06 | MAZDA 5 2.0D SPORT. Black | £8490 | £7290 | £1200 |
| 06/56 | TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 SPORT. 3-dr, Silver | £4990 | £3990 | £1000 |

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|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| PEUGEOT | | | | |
| 06/06 | 206 1.6Hdi SPORT. 3-dr, Grey Metallic | £5290 | £3990 | £1300 |

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Christmas Eve | 8.30am - 3.00pm |
| Christmas Day | Boxing Day & 27th |
| December 28th (SALES ONLY) | CLOSED |
| December 29th & 30th | 10.30am - 4.00pm |
| New Year's Eve | 8.30am - 5.30pm |
| New Year's Day | 8.30am - 4.00pm |
| Sunday 2nd Jan | 11.00am - 5.00pm |
| Monday 3rd Jan | 10.30am - 4.00pm |

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thechronicle

Jack proves to be master of his trade

A 20-year-old Black Country carpentry apprentice has scooped a top accolade after being named Apprentice of the Year by the Stourbridge-based Western region of Mansell Construction.

Jack Carey, from Stourbridge, was given the award after working on several major Mansell projects across the region.

He is a key member of the refurbishment team which has developed a reputation for high quality fit-out work for a wide and diverse client base.

Jack studied for his NVQ in carpentry at

Walsall Housing Group's training centre, after which he completed his NVQ level three at Stourbridge Apprentice Training Centre.

He was presented with his award by divisional manager Andy Price and construction manager Dean Howard at Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, where Jack is currently involved in Mansell's latest project to help restore the park to its former glory.

Highly Commended in Mansell's apprentice awards was 20-year-old Steven Lediard, from West Bromwich.



Apprentice of the Year Jack Carey, from Stourbridge, with Mansell's Dean Howard and Andy Price, who presented the 20-year-old with his award

Manor reduced to a pile of rubble

School's out for staff



Stephen Greenhalgh and office manager Marlene Elwell, who both retired from Roberts Primary School

THE school bell has sounded for the final time for Black Country staff who bid a fond farewell at the end of term.

At Roberts Primary School, in Lower Gornal, children waved off their assistant head teacher Stephen Greenhalgh, his wife, teacher Sofia Greenhalgh and the school's office manager Marlene Elwell who were both retiring.

Mr Greenhalgh, of Pedmore, Stourbridge, has spent 22 years at the school, which he joined following a stint teaching at Ellowes Hall School, Lower Gornal.

"It's the case now that families are coming back around with

their third generations which is nice," he said.

He started teaching sixth formers and reckons that he has taught around 10,000 in his 34-year career.

The 56-year-old is planning a three-month round the world cruise with his wife Sofia who is also leaving her teaching position at the school.

Grandmother-of-two Mrs Elwell, aged 60, was presented with flowers and cards made by pupils. The school administrator, of The Northway, Sedgley, said: "The atmosphere among staff has been really good and in general this is a real community school."

Media employees give festive boost

A SACKFUL of presents for children was collected by staff at a Brierley Hill-based media firm. Virgin Media staff got into the festive spirit by organising a present collection for the Four Steps to a Smile appeal at the company's offices at The Waterfront.

More than 200 gifts were donated Four Steps to a Smile goes to children's homes in the Midlands to compile Christmas wish lists from children and young adults who may not otherwise receive a gift.

Once the charity completed the list, businesses and members of the community were asked to purchase one of the gifts.

The presents were then collected and distributed, or are dropped off under the Christmas tree at Old Square shopping centre in Walsall, before being opened on Christmas Day by the children.

Walkway planned for car dealership

TWO plots of open space in Sandwell will be turned into a walkway and garage.

A 426 sq yd plot of land, which is next to the former Crown Works, Newtown Lane, Cradley Heath, is to be transformed into a landscaped walkway for a car dealership, called Motor Market, in School Street.

A 165 sq yd plot of land which has been earmarked for open space off Dunkirk Avenue in West Bromwich is to become a garage with off-road parking for the next door resident.

A Sandwell Council spokesman said that there was no covenant restricting the land for open space but any residents wishing to object should send comments in writing to the head of corporate property at Sandwell Council House in Freeth Street in Oldbury by January 20.

Charity launch of talent contest

A BLACK Country charity is launching a X Factor-style competition for young musicians in the area.

The Halesowen Foundation supports local learners to develop their talents in music and sport through bursaries.

Those wanting to show off their musical talent have until January 14 to apply for the competition.

Youngsters will be asked to perform in front of judges on February 12, in four categories, digital music and percussion; brass and woodwind; piano and strings and voice.

Difficult

Winners from each category and age range will be invited to a celebration dinner at Halesowen College's restaurant where trophies and certificates will be presented.

Foundation director Keith Bate said: "This is the first year we have held this competition and we are really eager to see the range of talented young people."

"I know already that the judges will have a really difficult decision."

"I would urge everyone to get their entry forms filled in as soon as possible."

Entry forms and the terms and conditions can be downloaded from the foundation's website www.halesowenfoundation.org

Use change for stables

A BID to convert stables near Stourbridge into a residential property has been given the go ahead.

A planning application for the work at Stourton Hill Stables on Bridgford Road, Stourton, has been approved by South Staffordshire District Council.

Cut in number of homes in new plan

PLANS to build homes on the site of a former Dudley drilling works are to go before planners for a second time - despite being rejected earlier this year.

David Wilson Homes has altered its plans for housing development on the old M&J Drilling Works site, in Holloway Street, Lower Gornal. It is now seeking permission to build 74 homes rather than the original 76 to follow recommendations made by planning chiefs.

The developers hope the change will find favour when it comes before planners in the New Year. The developer says the reduction in the number of homes will also allow for changes in the development design.

The scheme was resubmitted on December 8 and is expected to be discussed by the committee again in January or February.

New Year's Day



Available on the
App Store

Source: The author's research. Data were collected from 1998 to 2000.

Choice



PREVIEW
ITV4, 730pm
It's been a year since Ashkanan's death and the discovery of the bodies of Danny Conner and Paddy the fairsydancer returns for a new fourth series. The government has lost faith in Lucas's abilities to manage the dig and so, instead of operating on his own and placing the Ancestry Research Centre in the hands of a professional firm and an independent, credible Paddy Burrey played by Alexander Gasky of *Outlaw* Deep Space Miners. Will the APC really be able to solve the secrets of Burnside, buried in time, Lasterland no more, now new thing in the north? Will it also mean the death, just the APC has brought them back, including their lives.

BBC1

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| G-99 <i>Brooklyn</i> 99.99 <i>Grain by Grain</i> | 99.99 <i>Grain by Grain</i> |
| Kidman <i>Live</i> 99.99 <i>Football</i> | 99.99 <i>Football</i> |
| Proton 99.99 <i>BBB</i> <i>News</i> | 99.99 <i>News</i> |
| Regional News <i>Weather</i> 99.99 | 99.99 |
| The Archbishop of Canterbury | |
| New Year Wreckage 99.99 <i>Doctor</i> | 99.99 <i>Doctor</i> |
| Mix (TV) 99.99 <i>Philic Don Movie</i> | 99.99 <i>Philic Don Movie</i> |
| (2007) <i>Phenomena</i> <i>Announced</i> | |
| <i>comedy with the voice of Jerry</i> | |
| <i>Seinfeld</i> 99.99 <i>Philic</i> <i>99.99</i> | 99.99 <i>Philic</i> |
| (2007) <i>Phenomena</i> <i>Philic</i> <i>99.99</i> | 99.99 <i>Philic</i> |
| <i>documentary with the voice of Ben</i> | |
| <i>Stacy</i> 99.99 <i>Philic Score</i> 99.99 <i>BBB</i> | 99.99 <i>BBB</i> |
| <i>News</i> <i>Regional News</i> <i>Weather</i> | |
| 99.99 <i>in Indiana Jones and the</i> | |
| <i>Kingdoms of the Crystal Skull</i> | |
| (2008) | |

EEQ

8:00 *Live From The 1990 Country Music Awards* (1990) **TV-14** The evening concert on the opening day of the weekend Country Club.

ITV1

5:00 **QUTV** *The Party Girl*, 2007
Tonight **2:00** *Paint The New Beginning* Story (100%)
 Fantasy adventure starring
 Scott Driver **2:30** *The Plumed*
 Humant Animals (P) **3:00**
 Corruption Story (100%) **3:30** *ITV*
 Home Wishes **3:30** *Midnight*
 Makers (P) **4:00** *Donnerstag*
 Abbey (P) **4:30** *Donnerstag*
 (P) **5:00** *ITV* *Home Wishes* **5:30**
 Film: *Harry Potter and the*
 Prisoner of Azkaban (2004)
 Fantasy adventure starring
 Daniel Radcliffe

5:30 *Fridayweek* *Homecoming*

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ITW
Casefile: The Deadly Firestorm
Personal - Behind the Cover
Micko & Lyle (2000) **5.0**
Plan 11 - Hot by (2000)

ITW
Casefile: The Three Unknowns
Agatha Christie - Four 2000
Types - 2000 Above Suspense
the Fall

ITW
Casefile: Centuries of Mystery
The Mysterious (1979)

PRIMEVAL

ITV4. 730pm

It's been over a year since Johnson's death and the tragic occurrence of Danny Gonzalez and Ruben de la Hoya's deaths returns for a new fourth season. The government has lost faith in Lucero's abilities to remain sane and rigorous and operates operations on his own and placed the Academy Research Center in the hands of a pathological personality to train and decommission a combat Pilot. Games played by Glennor Gaskin of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* fame. With the APC now in national security of the world, Lucero is being. Lucero had his new house near killing in the past. With no more time to waste, the APC has a long list of new recruits to develop their ideas.

*****New Year Clearance Sale*****
Open New Years Day & Throughout 10am-4pm

**All Gifts
1/2 Price**

**Malaga Cnd Glass
Corner Cabinet,
Was £395,
now £199**

**French Style Cabinet
one only - slight second
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£49.00**

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ALL MUST GO

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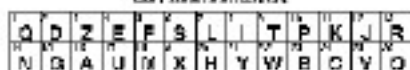
RainToday?

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The latter
representation by
the collection
worldwide. One
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L. N. T. TONG AND C. H. CHAN



Cryptic Clues:

1999

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Sorry to say, but get lost. (Find the point) (2) | 2. Sign of service in a restaurant (4) |
| 3. A really nice guy (shows one's personality) (4) | 3. Also, modify the size of a photo (4) |
| 4. At the time when they were introduced to one another (a situation) (1) | 4. In the end (once) (4) |
| 11. Arrange the last part in "Mistake" (2) | 5. One can see many things (2) |
| 12. Not used to be a romantic guy (1) | 6. Learning one's lesson (1) |
| 13. Time to make things possible (4) | 7. Not to be bothered (a term) (1) |
| 15. Interfere in (2) | 8. Not used to being a romantic (1) |
| 17. Such an attitude can ruin your job. It will be called to account (1) | 9. Strictly applied to neither one nor two (2, 2) |
| 18. There is no such a man (a) (1) | 11. Fuse the two (a situation) (1) |
| 22. A pretty, sweet girl is the rival of the other (meeting) (2, 4) | 14. Apparently, but not in reality (concern) (1) |
| 23. For vacation clothing (regards) (2) | 16. Not they may be in a large part of the nearby (a) (2) |
| 24. Some nice couple (a) (2) | 17. They look like really in character (but not, in fact) (2) |
| 25. A person who is a person (2) | 21. Put in the middle (1) |

Abstract

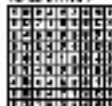
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LAST PAGE: 100
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CHRONICLE MOTORING

Chevrolet follows the fleet with launch of a seven-seat carrier

CHEVROLET is looking to make inroads into the fleet market with the launch of the practical seven-seat Orlando people carrier.

Available with a 1.8-litre petrol engine or two new powerful diesel derivatives and in three trim levels, the Orlando MPV aims to offer class-leading value for money in a stylish design and is priced from £16,395 on the road.

Package

With generous equipment levels across the range, the new Chevrolet package is backed up by highly competitive running costs both at the pump and for tax returns. Mated with a six-speed manual gearbox as

standard, the Orlando's diesel-engined models offer a combined mpg figure of 47.1mpg with CO2 emissions of 159 g/km, meaning an annual road tax bill at current rates of £150.

The 141PS 1.8-litre petrol-engined models offer fleets attractive company car payments (P11D) from just £740 per year, while the 2.0 VCDi diesel models offer payments of £802. P11D levels remain low across the range - particularly for diesel models.

The Orlando also benefits from best-in-class insurance group ratings and no other seven-seat MPV can match the 1.8-litre petrol model's 10E classification.

Standard equipment for the Orlando is generous across the

range. All models have Electronic Stability Control (ESC), air conditioning, electric windows and mirrors, six airbags and three 12v power sockets. Highlights of the mid-priced LT trim level include rear parking sensors, climate control and an upgraded stereo while the range-topping LTZ includes 17-inch alloys, automatic headlights and windscreen wipers and power-folding door mirrors.

Automatic

For ultimate luxury, the 163PS diesel-engined LTZ can be further specified with an automatic gearbox and Executive Pack which adds a full leather interior with heated front seats, sat-nav and 18-inch alloys. This top-of-the-range

model represents outstanding value at £23,195.

Keith Jones, Chevrolet national fleet sales manager, said: "The Orlando is a high-quality vehicle that provides Chevrolet access to fleet channels that we have never competed in before. The Orlando blends practicality, style and comfort."

"Backed up by a three-year warranty, high mileage fleet, service and maintenance package options and the support of a nation-wide dealer network, the Orlando is an outstanding and versatile proposition. This car represents the start of a journey that will reposition Chevrolet as a totally committed provider to the fleet sector."

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260 WEEKS AT £17

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|---|---|---|--|
| 53 REG PEUGEOT 206 SE CC CONVERTIBLE IN BLACK £3999 260 Weekly Payments of £23 | 53 REG MG TF 160 SPRINT WITH HARD TOP IN BLUE £4799 260 Weekly Payments of £23 | 52 REG RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE IN SILVER £3499 260 Weekly Payments of £17 | 56 REG MAZDA RX-8 201 PS WITH FULL BLACK LEATHER £6999 260 Weekly Payments of £33 |
| 54 REG SEAT ARROSA 1.8 S 3 DOOR IN SILVER £3299 260 Weekly Payments of £16 | 53 REG NISSAN MICRA 1.2 S 3 DOOR IN BLUE £2699 260 Weekly Payments of £13 | 02 REG CITROEN SAXO 1.1 DESIRE 5 DOOR IN BLUE £1999 260 Weekly Payments of £10 | 53 REG VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.8 ENJOY £3499 150 Weekly Payments of £25 |
| 02 REG RANGE ROVER 4.4 VOGUE AUTOMATIC IN BLUE £12999 260 Weekly Payments of £64 | 56 REG FORD MONDEO 1.8 ZETEC 5 DOOR £4999 260 Weekly Payments of £24 | 02 REG CHRYSLER GRAND VOYAGER 2.5 T DIESEL 7 SEATER MPV £3499 104 Weekly Payments of £37 | 56 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 LIFE 5 DOOR £7499 260 Weekly Payments of £36 |

New Year Opening Times

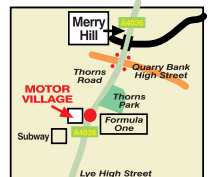
New Years Eve 9pm-5pm
New Year's Day 10am-4pm

Sunday 2nd January 10am-4pm
Monday 3rd January Onwards 9am-7pm

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53 REG MG TF 160 SPRINT WITH HARD TOP IN BLUE, 02/2007 Reg, low mileage, air con, great value. **£4799**

52 REG RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE IN SILVER, 02/2007 Reg, low mileage, air con, great value. **£3499**

56 REG MAZDA RX-8 201 PS WITH FULL BLACK LEATHER, 02/2007 Reg, low mileage, air con, great value. **£6999**

54 REG SEAT ARROSA 1.8 S 3 DOOR IN SILVER, 02/2007 Reg, low mileage, air con, great value. **£3299**

53 REG NISSAN MICRA 1.2 S 3 DOOR IN BLUE, 02/2007 Reg, low mileage, air con, great value. **£2699**

02 REG CITROEN SAXO 1.1 DESIRE 5 DOOR IN BLUE, 02/2007 Reg, low mileage, air con, great value. **£1999**

53 REG VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.8 ENJOY, 02/2007 Reg, low mileage, air con, great value. **£3499**

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Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : **CHAT207** To : 65125 (T&C's below).

SHROPSHIRE female 40, seeks special local male to share life with. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355959** 

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 339275**


TALL slim, attractive brown eyed brunette, 42, many interests, seeks fun loving cultured male to spend quality time with. AKA. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355253** 

ATTRACTIVE single mum, 40, outgoing, seeks similar guy for good times, possible relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 348919** 

OPEN friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 348867**

PRINCE wanted, must be 6ft, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am late 50's and attractive. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 337465**


WEST Midlands female, 4, attractive, slim, divorced, N/S, seeks slim, clean, attractive male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 343735**

LISA 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713** 


HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399**

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 351483**


LADY N/S, car owner, seeks lonely, retired gent with old fashioned values for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 351483**

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432** 

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349651**

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 353085** 

ATTRACTIVE nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTW attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 341479**


SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373** 


BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 362478**


Pretty size 8 female, 19, seeks male to spoil and treat her like a Princess. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 353019**

COUNTRY loving female, black hair, green eyes, GSOH, likes countryside, cosy nights in, music, seeks similar male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 337397** 


LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355891**

HI I'm Emma, a 31yr old smiley lady. I love fun and am looking for excitement with a fun male, I want to make you happy, age unimportant. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355765** 

FEMININE lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong minded male; I have so many interests please call to hear them. AKA. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355763** 

FRIENDLY outgoing, sociable lady, 34 but looks mid 20's (its true) WLTW adventurous male 18 - 65, I'm open to most ages/things, happy to try most things. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355761** 

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 351813** 


LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428** 

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 301001**

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 350397**

ATTRACTIVE tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211**

LADY 50, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, baking, seeks gentle guy, 50-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331383**


STEVE dark hair, single mum, small build, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks single dad, 30-40 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331373** 

KAREN 47, 5ft 9ins, civil servant, attractive, down to earth, likes drink, dance, socialising, home life, seeks tall, professional male, N/S for loving relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 323439**

WHITE curvy female 33, GSOH, likes nice things in life, seeks gent 43-57. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 325939**

BLACK female, 38, seeks male, 30-50, adventurous, and fun loving, daring and caring. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 327355**

IRENE 72, N/S, active, 5ft 2ins, slim, blonde hair, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331301**


EASYGOING loving day dreamer, curvy, long brown hair, seeks similar kind, loving male to share fun, friendship and good conversations. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355249** 


BLONDE female, 32, fun loving, likes letting her hair down and kicking her heels up, caring, considerate, seeks likeminded male, 25-40. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 323417** 

ATTRACTIVE widow, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, likes meals out, holidays, WLTW gent, 70-80 for friendship and happiness. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 330461**

YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes winning/dining, seeks mature male for fun. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 328669**

SUE young thinking 54yr old female, varied interests, likes music, walks, cinema, pots, football, seeks N/S, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 328177**


RITA 32, size 16-18, 5ft 4ins, seeks male, 30-50 for friendship and more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 324709** 

STUNNING Caribbean black beauty, 33, size 10, 5ft 9ins, intelligent, caring, classy, seeks generous, solvent, romantic, male, 33-45 for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 326751** 

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491** 

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 316619**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 313115**

BEAUTIFUL slim brunette, blue eyes, good figure, loves to dance, WLTW someone nice to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355251** 

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765**

PETITE dark haired lady, 43, size 10, seeks considerate, N/S male, 25-50 for fun. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 338651**

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 334627**

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865**

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easy-going and N/S. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265**

PROFESSIONAL lady, young 50, fashionable, pleasant, kind, likes countryside, outdoors, holidays, family life, seeks pleasant, committed Christian male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 316403**

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579**

MAUREEN seeks nice male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 323543**

LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTW gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021**

ATTRACTIVE glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/relationship and LTR. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 339799**

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 327573**

BOSSY lady, 44, dark hair, fit, slim, good looking, seeks male, 40-50 who will do as he is told. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 326119**

Genuine easygoing lady, 80's, N/S, seeks likeminded gent, 65-75 for friendship and company. Must be genuine. West Midlands. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 325719**

60YR young lady, slim, 5ft 4ins, young outlook, GSOH, honest, caring, loving, likes travel, nights in/out, music, theatre, seeks honest, caring male, 58-68 for love and laughter. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 320067** 

CAROLE 55, loving, caring, GSOH, likes nights in/out, animals, N/S, seeks caring male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 316793**


WIDOW black hair, green eyes, likes countryside, pubs, nights in, GSOH, seeks country loving male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 320583**


TWO attractive ladies who like to dance and socialise, need two smart partners. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 319989** 

DAWN 45, 5ft 2ins, average looks, easygoing, seeks male for loving relationship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 317865**

WIDOW black hair, green eyes, likes countryside, pubs, music, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 332331**

ATTRACTIVE widow, 57 7ins, genuine, sincere, OHAC, GSOH, likes dining out, holidays, seeks lonely, caring gent for friendship and happiness. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331049**

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 329319** 

CURVY intelligent young widow, 58, blue eyes, short dark hair, lovely figure, seeks tall lively male to enjoy life's pleasures with. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 353429** 

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 338315**

CURVY black female, seeks genuine male, 28-40 to make me laugh and have fun. Must have GSOH. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 317387**

YOUNG 72yr old female, slim, active, attractive, likes walks, seeks similar male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 324441** 

SARAH 20, attractive, brown hair/eyes, nice personality, like pets, seeks similar male, handsome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 317925** 


LADY 60's, seeks male for friendship, holidays and socialising. Car driver with ability to tow a caravan a bonus. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 324265**

PETITE blonde lady, 56, OHAC, likes countryside, nights out, dancing, cinema, theatre, holidays, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 303395**

LOVELY blonde widow with no ties, looking for love and romance again with lots of TLC. WLTW similar man. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 355247**

SHEILA 5ft 4ins, blue eyes, red hair, 6ft 5ins, likes music, meals out, country walks, seeks male, 45-54 who is sincere, fun loving for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 321455**

ROSANNA 41, caring, loving, devoted, loyal, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 322921**

ATTRACTIVE divorced 55yr old female, size 10, 5ft 6ins, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks tall, medium build, athletic guy to put the sparkle back into life. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 318203** 


LOUISE seeks nice male in her Christmas stocking. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 321491** 

WEST Bromwich female, late 50's, modern, romantic, easygoing, seeks active, genuine male, 45-60 LTR. Driver preferred. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 336759**

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 327573**

BOSSY lady, 44, dark hair, fit, slim, good looking, seeks male, 40-50 who will do as he is told. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 326119**


Genuine easygoing lady, 80's, N/S, seeks likeminded gent, 65-75 for friendship and company. Must be genuine. West Midlands. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 325719**

60YR young lady, slim, 5ft 4ins, young outlook, GSOH, honest, caring, loving, likes travel, nights in/out, music, theatre, seeks honest, caring male, 58-68 for love and laughter. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 320067** 

CAROLE 55, loving, caring, GSOH, likes nights in/out, animals, N/S, seeks caring male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 316793**

WIDOW black hair, green eyes, likes countryside, pubs, music, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 332331**


ATTRACTIVE widow, 57 7ins, genuine, sincere, OHAC, GSOH, likes dining out, holidays, seeks lonely, caring gent for friendship and happiness. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 331049**

SINGLE attractive young female, fun loving fit and fruity seeks likeminded older male for good times. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 363432** 


DOWN to earth female, 45, seeks gent, 45-55 to sparkle back into life, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 349468**

FEMALE medium build, seeks nice N/S male, 40-42 for fun and friendship, maybe more. West Midlands. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 337985**


GENUINE West Bromwich female, smoker, many interests, seeks fit male, driver preferred for LTR. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 334841**

VAL 35, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 334695** 

LADY 67, N/S, caring, likes sports, seeks male, 60 plus for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 323529**

TALL slim, young at heart 48yr old female, seeks tall, kind hearted male for nights out and companionship. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 323863** 

BLACK beauty, 29, 5ft 4ins, 14st, size 16, single mum, likes cooking, reading, travel, socialising, seeks honest, down to earth male, 30-45 Single dad welcome. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 308031**

ATTRACTIVE petite female, 34, single mum, likes nights in/out, cinema, sea-side, days out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 317151** 

BLACK beauty, 29, 5ft 4ins, 14st, size 16, single mum, likes cooking, reading, travel, socialising, seeks honest, down to earth male, 30-45 Single dad welcome. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 308031**

ATTRACTIVE petite female, 34, single mum, likes nights in/out, cinema, sea-side, days out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: **0905 436 6562 Box No: 317151**

sport

LATE KNOCKDOWN COSTS THE TITLE

A CONTROVERSIAL knockdown in the last round cost Coseley's Jamie Ball the Midlands light middleweight title against Telford's Kieron Gray.

But Gray did not go home with the vacant area belt either, and may retire after the fight at Birmingham's Holiday Inn which Dudley referee Shaun Messer scored a 96-96 draw.

Ball was winning by two rounds going into the 10th. But he took a count after a knockdown which, coupled with Gray winning the session, snatched the Midlands belt from

By Craig Birch

his grasp. The 'Black Country Bully' already appeared to be going to ground from a slip when he was helped on his way but referee Messer, convinced a punch had knocked him off balance, ruled it a knockdown.

It proved costly and put the first blemish on the 26-year-old's record in his 11th professional fight.

Stamina

But Ball showed great courage and similar stamina after being laid out for most of the week with the flu, which at one point had put the fight in doubt.

Fans were not disappointed that the December 20 bout went ahead in an entertaining title tussle, of which Ball took control after weathering some big shots

from Gray early on.

He had already bloodied the nose of his 32-year-old Shropshire opponent, who was running out of ideas and starting to swing wildly with Ball comfortable on his toes in the eighth round.

The younger fighter got behind his jab and further caught the eye with a rattling left in the ninth and all he had to do was survive the last round to lift the title.

Crucially, it fell apart, although Ball remained adamant he had done enough to win the fight.

He said: "Kieron Gray was a really difficult opponent who was strong and came to win, I take my hat off to him.

"But it was me who landed body shots and head shots. He was loading up with the big right hand every time and I blocked it almost every time he came in.

"I can't see how he drew the fight and that is what is frustrating me.

"It's very disappointing, a draw is just as bad as a loss in my eyes."

There was further heartache for the Dudley contingent as Dean Anderson's unbeaten start to life as a professional was halted in his third fight after a shock stoppage against Birmingham's Sid Razak.

Late replacement Razak smelled blood after connecting with a right uppercut. Anderson, instead of tucking up and hanging on, continued to trade blows and after taking further punishment referee Messer stepped in and stopped the light welterweight contest 42 seconds into the second round.

Injury

But there was better news for Stourbridge's Kevin McCauley, who banished the memory of losing the Midlands welterweight title earlier this month by beating Birmingham's Dee Mitchell.

The light middleweight six-round contest was thrown together at four days' notice when Tipton's Lee Glover pulled out with a groin injury but both fighters were up for the clash.

However, it was McCauley who held the upper hand as the fight wore on and teed off with the jab after a big shot had rocked Mitchell's head back in the third.

Referee Messer scored the contest 60-57.

Dedication lands accolade for golf club

HABBERLEY Golf Club has won a top accolade for its dedication to junior and beginner's golf.

The club, near Kidderminster, has been awarded GolfMark accreditation.

The English Golf Union (EGU) and English Women's Golf Association

(EWGA) developed the GolfMark award to identify and acknowledge golf facilities in England that were junior and beginner friendly.

The award also integrates Sport England's Clubmark award – a national standard for quality sports clubs recog-

nised across the country. More than 30 other sports, including tennis and rugby, are also using the alliance to add value to their accreditation schemes.

More than 10,000 sports clubs have been awarded Clubmark or are working towards achieving accreditation.

Benefits of GolfMark accreditation include raising the club's profile, further development of coaches and volunteers and greater access to funding.

GolfMark evaluates clubs on three areas in their junior section: Coaching and playing;

club environment, including ethics, and child protection and duty of care.

EGU and EWGA development officers continually conduct assessment meetings, offering advice and guidance to golf clubs on how to further enhance their junior sections and beginner initiatives.

Talks on deal for Harriers stalled

BUSINESSMAN Chris Swan has refused to rule out fresh talks over a financial rescue package for Kidderminster Harriers.

But the Warwickshire-based entrepreneur admitted that discussions were deadlocked over a possible takeover at Aggborough.

The Blue Square Premier outfit was looking to raise £150,000 quickly to meet wage and tax commitments and avoid the threat of administration.

The current directors met Swan – the man behind property business Cobalt Developments – but issued a statement announcing he had decided to withdraw from the proposed takeover.

And Swan said: "It's gone as far as I am concerned and I am not sure it can be picked up."

"I am keeping my eyes open and will see what happens, but it's difficult to know what is going on there at the moment."

Table

"You never say never, but the door is not open at the moment."

"However, if certain stumbling blocks can be resolved, we could get around the table again."

Director Keith Chandler, in an open letter on the club's website, set out a review of the discussions held with Swan.

In it he said that Swan had hoped to obtain 100 per cent of the club's shares but that it was believed some of those who held only a few shares may have died, with the whereabouts of the shares unknown.

Chandler said an offer was made to Swan which would have covered 86 per cent of the shares. The club constitution allows outright control to anyone holding 75 per cent or more.

Meanwhile, Harriers have moved quickly to rearrange the home Blue Square Premier game with Kettering that was postponed. It will be on Tuesday, January 11 (7.45pm).

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midlands News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton, on Thursday, December 30, 2010.

Shorter Samurai put their judo rivals to the sword

A DEVASTATING performance from the younger juniors of Samurai Judo Club saw five gold medals won by a seven-strong entry for the Midlands Commemorative Championships in Walsall.

The other two players both got bronzes to make it seven medals out of seven for the club.

Darcie Hancock was first up for the girls. The youngest of three judo sisters, and whose mum is a player and coach, Hancock certainly has a judo bloodline and it shows. She defeated all her opponents with ease, none of her contests lasting for more than a minute, and gold was the outcome.

Backwards

Charlotte Read made it gold in all three of her tournaments. Her early contests were straightforward wins but a tough opponent in the final was finally thrown backwards with fewer than 10 seconds left on the clock.

Bryony Griffiths also looked totally in command throughout. As with Hancock, none of her opponents could last more than a minute. It was her seventh gold medal in a contest career that is beginning to move towards national level.

Hamish Beaumont, whose medals include a bronze at the prestigious Kent International Open, had to work hard to win his first contest against a much heavier player.

But after that it was easy wins all the way to the final and then a spectacular maximum point throw less than 10 seconds into the bout. It was regarded as the throw of the day and brought gasps of admiration from the crowd.

Meanwhile, Tommy



Hamish Beaumont on his way to a gold medal. Pictures: DE Photos



Darcie Hancock displays her golden reward



Jamie Ball, right, lands a shot in his title fight with Kieron Gray

Legend Karlsson back at Monmore for 2011

WOLVES speedway legend Peter Karlsson has been confirmed for the Monmore club in 2011.

And the 41-year-old is expecting to be in great shape come March.

"I've been training well ever since the season stopped," said the veteran. "This has helped me to go even harder."

Karlsson, who skipped the Parys International Wolves to the Elite League title in 2009, will be spending his 14th campaign in the black and gold. And not even a temperature of minus 26 degrees outside the car in his

native Sweden could cool the enthusiasm coming via a variable mobile signal.

"It will be great to go back to Wolves and be with the club I've ridden most for in my whole career, out of all countries," he said. When I get back there it will feel like I was never away. I've got a good feeling (about the team)."

Wolves owner Chris Van Straaten, who also hopes to confirm Fredrik Lindgren's deal soon, doesn't expect PK to be the points scorer of his peak years but reckons his value in the pits and to the team is "immeasurable".

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